

Uc, No. 84.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



# REPORT

OF THE

## Superintendent of Public Instruction

OF THE

### STATE OF FLORIDA:

SHOWING THE

Results of the First Three Months after the Opening of the Common Schools.

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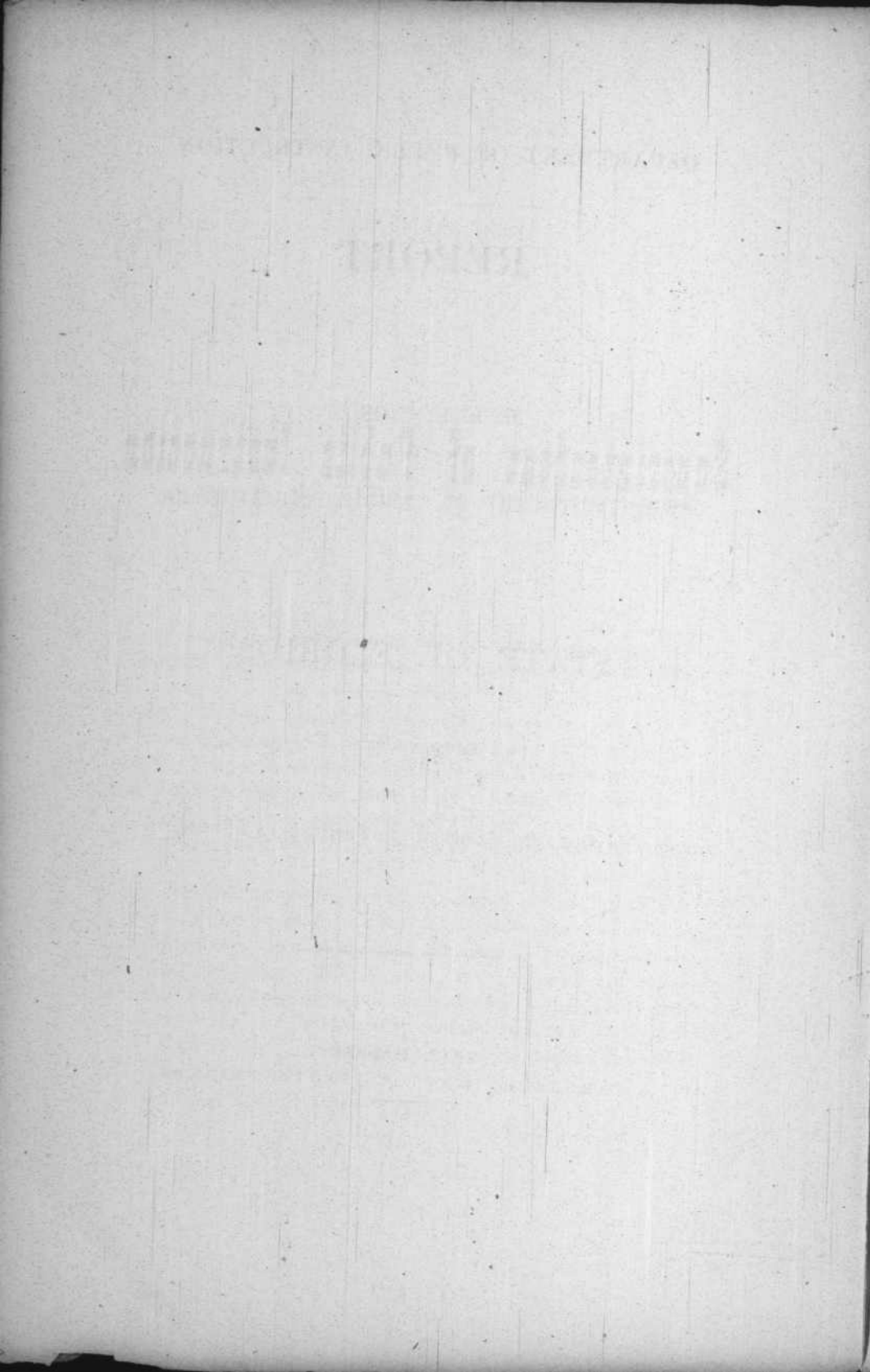
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REPORT  
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PREFATORY.

The following is chiefly a statement of results attained during the first three months of our first scholastic year. Although the reports from County Superintendents were necessarily imperfect, I was enabled to state, on submitting this to His Excellency the Governor, at the beginning of the legislative session in January, that "about one hundred schools were opened early in the month of October. Since that time their number has steadily increased. It now appears that we have over two hundred and fifty schools in operation, with a total registration of about 7,500 pupils.

"Although the law appears to be satisfactory in the main, yet I would invite your attention to the propriety of recommending some measures for securing a uniform rate of taxation, for the support of schools, to a more perfect and less frequent taking of the census of the youth, and to increasing the facilities for the professional instruction of teachers."

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

C. THURSTON CHASE,

Superintendent Public Instruction.

TALLAHASSEE, May 1, 1870.



## THE WORK SUCCESSFULLY INAUGURATED.

It is cause for congratulation that our system of popular education has been successfully inaugurated; that it appears to meet the wants of the State; that no organized or active opposition has been encountered, and that free schools are rapidly gaining favor with the people.

## OBSTACLES OVERCOME.

That obstacles would arise was not unexpected. What was more natural than that owners of large and unproductive estates would be averse to taxation for the education of children in whom they had no special interest? Any innovation upon established usage challenges opposition. Ignorance and prejudice, the ready dupes of their own fears, see many lions in the way.

The ulterior object of free schools was questioned. Might they not be perverted, it was asked, for personal or political ends? Cautious men entertained doubts concerning the management that should control them. They feared that they might fall into the hands of bad or incompetent men, and thus be made productive of discord instead of harmony in neighborhoods. There was a want of officers accustomed to the work, and of precedents to guide them. Besides, a sort of odium attached to free schools, as pauper institutions.

Schools were to be started in every neighborhood, school houses built and teachers employed; yet there was neither township or local organization, nor an available dollar for defraying even the incidental expenses of creating an organization.

## THE SCHOOL LAW.

It is perhaps fortunate that no school law was passed by the Legislature at its first session. We have now a better system than was then proposed, and the state of the public mind is more favorable for its introduction. It appears to have reconciled, for the first time in the history of educational legislation in the South, the extreme views of conflicting parties and interests. The law passed both Houses by a large vote and without an amendment being offered in either. On returning to his constituents, nearly every member of the Legislature became an advocate of the measure. Many of them, without distinction of party, are among its chief supporters. The administrative head of the Department has constantly aimed to execute its provisions as a sacred trust, without favor or partiality, for the good of all, and in the spirit of conciliation that characterized the passage of the bill.

## ORGANIZATION.

After it became a law, no time was lost in putting it into operation. Before the members of the Legislature had left for their homes, steps were taken to quietly initiate the work in every county. As soon as recommendations for boards of public instruction were received as provided by law, the appointments were made. Many of the first appointees did not accept, and new selections had to be made. Where county superintendents had been appointed and had qualified, organizations were speedily effected. In other cases, temporary organizations were formed, and suitable persons were proposed to the Governor for appointment to the superintendency. Then the boards organized.

Boards of instruction have been appointed in all the counties excepting one. From this county no suggestions have been received on the subject. Organizations have been completed in twenty-six counties. Schools have been opened in an equal number. Eleven counties are wanting county superintendents qualified and commissioned to act. Eight have not organized for want of these officers. The census returns have been received from twenty-six. The Assessors in several have failed to take the census. There are over 250 schools in operation, having an attendance of over 7,500 pupils. Private schools have generally been merged in free schools. Their numbers have immediately increased. Some have doubled, others have quadrupled their attendance. Fifteen counties have levied no tax. In nine of these, schools have been organized and sustained by private contributions, under the law.

## OUTLINE OF THE SYSTEM.

In order that the system may be more generally understood, by those who may not have made the provisions of the law a study, the following brief outline is presented:

By the terms of our State Constitution the Governor appoints, the Senate confirming, a Superintendent of Public Instruction, and County Superintendents. The State Board of Education is composed of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of State, and Attorney-General, *ex officio* members.

The law constitutes each county a school district, and commits the charge of its educational affairs to a board of public instruction. This body is composed of not more than five members. They are selected by the representatives of the county, after consultation with the citizens, and are recommended to the Superintendent of Public Instruction with the following endorsement:

*Qualifications:* "They are citizens of good moral character, upright and responsible. We believe them to be personally desirous of extending the benefits of free public instruction to all classes of youth, and that as officers they will be found competent, impartial, and faithful in the performance of their duties. For these reasons we commend them for appointment."

No legal "disabilities" prevent any good friend of education from holding a position under the school law. No oath is required. The person accepting gives the simple pledge that he will "faithfully and impartially perform all the duties of the position."

A board of public instruction is constituted a corporate body, for educational purposes. In that capacity it holds the titles to the school property, and receives, holds, and disburses the funds. It is empowered to establish and maintain common schools, and schools of higher grade, wherever they may be needed; to build school houses; examine, hire, and pay teachers; fix the amount to be raised in the county by tax, and in general, to perform all acts reasonable and necessary for the diffusion of knowledge.

The county superintendent is *ex officio* the secretary and agent of the board. The chairman and other officers are chosen by the board.

When a school is to be organized, the patrons are consulted in reference to the location of the house, the selection of the trustees, the choice of the teacher, and on all matters which more particularly interest the parents and children.

By the Constitution the distribution of State funds is made to the several counties in proportion to the youth between the ages of four and twenty-one years residing in them. But the law fixes the minimum school age at six years, and provides that funds shall be disbursed to schools on the average attendance of pupils. Some discretionary power is allowed in favor of small schools. The safe keeping of the funds is amply guarded.

When a county board of instruction fails or neglects to attend to its duties, the county superintendent may be invested with all the powers of that body, and be qualified to act in its stead. The board of education has power to remove any member of a county board or a trustee for incompetency, neglect of duty, or any cause which should disqualify a candidate for appointment.

Thus it will be seen that the law is plain, direct, and practical. It is strong, yet flexible enough to yield to the varied wants of communities. While it is adapted to the most sparsely settled regions, it meets the wants of the largest towns by the least



practicable amount of machinery. It would have taken years to have inaugurated a free school system in this State upon the township or independent neighborhood district plan.

#### OFFICIAL SERVICE.

The manner in which county superintendents and members of the boards of public instruction have performed their duties is worthy of honorable mention. Many have displayed marked zeal and discretion in the exercise of their powers. Some have advanced liberally of their own private means to start the work, before public funds could be realized. Not a few have declined receiving compensation for their services. They have constantly sought the counsel and advice of the Superintendent of Public Instruction through correspondence and otherwise, and with him have maintained the most satisfactory official relations.

That officer, immediately after the passage of the law, prepared all necessary registers, reports, and forms, prescribing the routine of departmental business. These were printed and distributed with the law to school officers and teachers. This measure has contributed to uniformity in the documents, and secured regularity and accuracy in the proceedings from the outset. Doubtless it has helped to ward off litigation and increase confidence. He has issued circulars, as circumstances required, giving timely information and instructions. He has personally visited many counties in organizing and supervising the work. On these duties he has travelled more than three thousand miles, meeting everywhere a kind welcome and co-operation.

The Board of Education has rendered every needed assistance.

There is every reason to believe that the system will triumph, and, becoming a part of the permanent polity of the State, will endure to bless through party changes and successive administrations.

#### CHANGES IN THE LAW.

There are but one or two points on which any change in the law is needed at present. The first is in the manner of raising funds.

Although the expense of schools for a given number of children should be about the same in different counties, yet the rate of tax for educational purposes varies in different counties from one mill to five mills on the dollar. In two counties the county commissioners appear to have refused to levy the tax. In one or more the board of instruction was remiss in its duty. In others the want of an organization of the board, or appointment

of a county superintendent, has prevented any money being raised for educational purposes.

A matter of such importance should not be left to any contingencies. The tax for the support of schools should be uniform, and should be imposed by a general act. This would provide the means of paying teachers and conducting the schools, regardless of error or neglect or conflict of county boards. Improvements may be made at greater or less cost in the several counties, as the wealth and ability of the people demand. For this purpose discretionary power should still remain in the hands of the boards of instruction. Might not the school tax be fixed at a given rate on all articles taxed for State purposes?

It is a mistake to levy a very light and insufficient tax. By doing so, the odium of taxing is incurred, without obtaining the means to accomplish anything worthy of defending. It is better to levy a sufficient amount to establish good schools, and then establish them. They will command respect, and be sustained by public opinion. But poor schools can hardly be defended.

The property holders claim that there are many able-bodied laboring men whose children are deriving the benefits of the schools, yet pay no tax, and that they would be able and willing to contribute a small sum annually were there a general provision on the subject. This view is entertained by some good friends of education, who have noted the interest of this class in learning, and the strong preference manifested by laborers for those neighborhoods in which their children could attend school.

It must be admitted that the tax-payers have borne the new levies for educational purposes with rare good grace. Some of those who pay the heaviest taxes are among the warmest advocates of free schools. Their opinions are entitled to consideration. Any increase of means from such sources would accrue directly to the benefit of those who contributed to the fund, by enabling boards of instruction to employ better teachers, and continue the sessions of schools longer. However feasible the plan, there may be practical difficulties in the way of its execution.

The present provision for taking the annual census of youth by the assessor of taxes, is substantially the same as that which has long been in force in the State. It would be sufficient if the enumeration was made once in three years. It should then be more thorough and accurate. The county superintendent would be a proper officer to make the enrollment. A change in the law to that effect is recommended.

## FUTURE DEMANDS OF THE WORK.

It is not necessary at this time to enter upon any discussion of educational theories. We are only laying foundations for a permanent superstructure. There are now but a few schools in the State that would rank above good common schools.

It is intended to establish schools of higher grade of instruction in every county, at some central point, as rapidly as the advancement of the pupils will warrant. To these schools all the citizens of the county would be entitled to send. Parents will find that they will, at no distant day, be enabled to educate their children at or near their own homes at a tithe of the expense they now are subject to when they send them abroad to be educated.

These institutions should be made to occupy that important middle ground from which students may pass to colleges, yet to be founded, or to the arena of business life. Instruction in them should be thorough and eminently practical.

There are at present no adequate arrangements for the professional training of teachers. The want of competent instructors, next to a want of means, is the chief hindrance in the way of progress in the common schools. There should be an annual appropriation for this purpose placed under the direction of the Board of Education. The teacher, quite as much as the soldier, should be trained at public expense and hold a rank of honor.

To improve the present corps of teachers, measures are in progress for holding teachers' institutes, in which, under competent instructors, they can be drilled in improved methods of imparting instruction, in the use of apparatus, and in the theory and practice of school government.

## TEXT-BOOKS.

A selection of valuable text-books has been made for the public schools. The publishers furnish them to the retail buyers in the State at actual cost of manufacture, for first introduction, and subsequently at the regular New York wholesale prices.

A pledge of a donation from the Peabody Fund of over 9,000 volumes has been secured; but the books have not yet been received. Other generous donations have been arranged for. When collected they will form a rich depository from which indigent children can be supplied with books.

## THE SEMINARIES.

These institutions are in operation under the law which created them. The board in charge of the East Florida Seminary has continued its operation regularly. The sessions of the West

Florida Seminary were suspended during the scholastic year 1868-9, by the board in charge retiring from their duties; but on the appointment of a new board were resumed. At the commencement of the fall term both of these schools were started on the free basis, except in the classical department of the East Florida Seminary. Hitherto a tuition fee had been charged.

This State shared with other States in the benefits of the grant of land for University purposes made by Congress. Two townships were thus obtained. By the act of March 3, 1845, supplemental to the act for the admission of Florida, there were granted "two entire townships of land in addition to the two townships already reserved, for the use of two seminaries of learning, one to be located east and the other west of the Suwannee river." The interest arising from the proceeds of the sales of these lands has been applied to their support. The fund is a State fund. Each county has a right to send students to the one or the other Seminary in the ratio that it sends Representatives to the Legislature.

The law establishing the seminaries declared their first object to be the professional training of teachers; the second, imparting instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts, and in other branches of higher learning.

It appears from reports of these institutions made by Judge Bernard and Rev. S. F. Halliday, of the Boards in charge, that but very few State students have ever made application for admission to either, and that the benefits of them have accrued chiefly to the inhabitants of the towns at which they have been located. The place at which an institution of learning is built up is always the principal gainer. It is sure to contribute to the intelligence, the general culture, and refinement of the citizens, and becomes a centre of attraction to persons of cultivated tastes.

The causes which have operated to prevent students from other counties claiming their share of the benefits of the seminaries may have been various. One principal reason assigned is the high price of board charged students. This still exists, and is a serious drawback to their usefulness which should be obviated.

*East Florida Seminary.*—Rev. Mr. Halliday, in giving a sketch of the progress of the Seminary East, says that on the removal of the Seminary to Gainesville, in 1867, there were for the first term 100 pupils, including six State pupils, formerly called *beneficiaries*. For the scholastic year 1867-8, there were about 80 pupils, five of whom were *beneficiaries*. For 1868-9, there were 75, including 5 *beneficiaries*. The present attendance is 90, with but one State pupil. Forty of these are in the Primary



Department, which is sustained by the County Board of Instructions.

It is worthy of mention that several of the teachers now employed in the free schools of Alachua county received their education at this institution. No county, perhaps, has so many good teachers in its schools. Very few persons from other counties have ever availed themselves of the privileges of the Seminary. This may have been owing in part to the want of knowledge as to the right, and in part to the comparatively high price of board for students.

Extensive repairs are needed on the buildings; also, a dormitory for students from abroad. It is the intention of the board to invest a portion of their surplus fund in apparatus, and in increasing the capabilities of the institution.

Judging from the usefulness of the school in the past, as well as its recent increase in numbers and its present prosperity, we are pleased to state that our prospects for the future are encouraging to all friends of education.

The friends of this institution have reason to remember with gratitude the generous munificence and untiring services of Hon. J. H. Roper in its behalf.

*West Florida Seminary.*—Judge J. T. Bernard, president of the board in charge of this institution, has submitted a very interesting report, from which the following is condensed:

After a suspension of twelve months, and the appointment of a new board by the Governor, this institution was re-opened on the first Monday of October last with a corps of six teachers. After mature deliberation it was determined to abolish the system of charging for tuition, and make the school free.

This enabled us the better to grade and classify the school, to largely increase the attendance, and to achieve other important advantages. Our repairs and incidental expenses have amounted to \$1,500. We pay our Principal \$2,000 per annum. The associate teachers receive \$1,000, \$700, \$700, \$600, and \$500, respectively. Making a total of \$5,500 for teachers' salaries. This is \$400 less than was paid for the year 1867-8.

The attendance for the past seven years has been as follows:

1856-'7—Male Department.....76;	Female Department, no report.	
1864-'5—Male Department.....34;	Female Department.....34—Total..58	
1865-'6—Male Department.....58;	Female Department.....29— “ ..87	
1866-'7—Male Department.....48;	Female Department.....30— “ ..78	
1867-'8—Male Department.....42;	Female Department.....24— “ ..66	
1868-'9—School conducted by private parties, total attendance about.....50		
1869-'70—Male Department.....73;	Female Department.....75—Total.148	

About one-third are in the Academic Department. There are no State pupils, properly such.

The Seminary is now in a more prosperous condition than it



has been at any time since the war. We confidently hope that it may soon become a model school, of high grade.

From the opening of the Seminary until its suspension in 1868, the city had made up the \$2,000 guaranteed to the State, as an annuity, in the form of tuition fees. This assistance is now withheld.

The report concludes with the suggestion that an annual appropriation of \$6,000 be made by the Legislature towards the payment of board of State students. These to be of good moral character and possessed of high literary attainments. On graduating they should obligate themselves to teach at least four years in the State. The construction of a dormitory for the students is recommended when practicable.

#### SCHOOL AND SEMINARY LANDS.

It appears from the books of the Surveyor-General and Treasurer that there have been sold during the past year as follows:

School Lands, 3,290 acres, bringing	-	-	-	\$5,561 44
Seminary Lands, 270 " " "	-	-	-	641 34

There are supposed to be about 600,000 acres of school and seminary lands remaining unsold; but the exact amount is not obtainable. It is said that considerable tracts have been forfeited in consequence of purchasers failing to comply with the terms of their contracts, but to what extent is not known.

There is need of a general revisal of the price lists of school and seminary lands. But the Board of Education have not deemed it advisable to force them upon the market at present. Exceptions will be made in the reduction of prices in favor of actual settlers.

#### AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LANDS.

The scrip representing these lands cannot be located in this State, because the government lands lying in it are reserved for homestead entry, nor can the State, by the terms of the grant, "locate the same within the limits of any other State or any Territory of the United States; but its assignees may thus locate said land scrip."

There are two propositions, either of which may be adopted: First, sell the scrip and invest the proceeds, forming an Agricultural College Fund. Second, assign the scrip to a corporate body, composed of men chosen for their special fitness for the task; which body should locate the scrip, and at the proper time dispose of the same, and use the proceeds as originally intended by Congress in establishing an agricultural and mechanical college.

Should this last proposition be deemed practicable it would,

no doubt, be productive of the greatest good, as may be seen by the following statement of what has been done in other States :

Soon after the passage of the law by Congress granting these lands, the States of Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia, holding scrip to the amount of 1,961,000 acres, sold at an average of about fifty-three cents per acre, or about two-fifths the government standard. Other States, as Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, located their scrip. The lands thus obtained are now worth, by estimation, from two to five and ten dollars per acre. Kansas located 90,000 acres. The estate is now worth half a million of dollars. Ezra Cornell, the noble founder of the university bearing his name, located about twice the amount of scrip due to this State. The investment is now estimated to be worth nearly two millions, after a lapse of only four years.

Other Southern States will soon receive scrip for about 2,000,000 acres. It is probable that much of it will be thrown upon the market, and the value thereby become greatly depreciated, so that hasty action should be guarded against.

#### AID RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Assistance received from the General Government through Bvt. Lt.-Col. Geo. W. Gile, Superintendent of Education, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, is as follows :

Rent was paid during the month of December for buildings at the rate of ten dollars each in the several counties, as follows :

Alachua, - - -	16	Gadsden, - - -	15
Clay, - - -	9	Nassau, - - -	5 0
Columbia, - - -	7	Orange, - - -	8
Duval, - - -	9	Walton, - - -	2
Franklin, - - -	4		
Total amount - - -			75.

This sum, although nominally appropriated for rent, is devoted to the payment of teachers' salaries.

Twenty school buildings have been constructed by the General Government in this State during the years 1868-9, at an outlay of \$52,600. They accommodate about 2,500 pupils. The most important of these is located at Jacksonville, and is the largest and finest school edifice in the State. It was designed for a normal school, and will be used for that purpose as soon as wanted.

By the above it will be seen that the General Government has aided the educational movements in the State in permanent

buildings, and in defraying the current expenses of schools, to an extent beyond the expenditures of the State for freedmen's schools. It is hoped this help will be continued.

#### THE PEABODY FUND.

The following generous offers of assistance have been made by Dr. Sears, General Agent of the Peabody Fund:

St. Augustine,	-	-	\$1,000	Bartow,	-	-	-	\$ 300
Jacksonville,	-	-	1,000	Tallahassee,	-	-	-	1,000
Monticello,	-	-	700	Quincy,	-	-	-	600
Apalachicola,	-	-	500	Madison,	-	-	-	500
Lake City,	-	-	650	Marianna,	-	-	-	400
Total,								<hr/> \$6,650

Most of these places have complied with the terms proposed, opened the schools, and received their proportion of the munificence. Several others have made application for assistance. A pledge of 9,300 volumes of text-books has also been made from the fund, to be delivered hereafter, as is elsewhere noted.

The General Agent, in correspondence with the Superintendent, says:

"I wish all the towns which we aid to come into your system of legal public schools. Our aim is to encourage the establishment of permanent, good schools at important, influential points; therefore we do not help small schools in rural districts. The proper distributive share of Florida would be about \$2,000 per annum; but as you are farther advanced than some of the other Southern States, I am willing to give Florida, by way of anticipation, more than double her share for this year.

"Applications for aid should come to me through your office. It would save me much trouble and increase our safety."

#### OTHER DONATIONS.

A gift of one hundred and ninety Bibles has been received from the American Bible Society, for the use of teachers in the public schools; also, several hundred volumes of Bibles from the Divinity Students of Oxford, England, through the American Missionary Association of New York. Several hundred Bibles and Testaments have been donated by the last named association. These are being disbursed according to the intention of the donors. The American Missionary Association continues to render valuable aid in supplying teachers for several schools.

A gift of apparatus is acknowledged from the firm of Schermerhorn & Co. of New York; also, two valuable instruments

illustrating the motions of the heavenly bodies, from J. Davis, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

The firms of Ivison, Phinney, Blakeman & Co., and Charles Scribner & Co., of New York, present a set of the adopted textbooks to each County Superintendent. Other educational publishers have supplied the Superintendent's office with samples of their works.

#### THE CENSUS OF YOUTH.

The returns have been received from twenty-eight counties. Some of them appear to be incomplete.

Number in 25 counties between 4 and 21 years.....	38,400
“ “ 3 “ irregularly reported.....	3,500
Total in 28 counties.....	41,900

No returns from the counties of *Alachua*, *Brevard*, *Calhoun*, *Escambia*, *Franklin*, *Hernando*, *Holmes*, *Monroe*, *Orange*, *Santa Rosa*, *Walton*, and *Washington*. No census taken in the counties in italics.

#### SCHOOLS, PUPILS, ORPHANAGE, ETC.

Total number of schools reported in operation before the first of December, 1869.....	175
Total in operation January 1, 1870, over.....	250
Total number of pupils in attendance.....	7,575

Returns from seven counties giving the most complete and accurate reports, show that in a registration of 2,543 pupils, there are:

Fatherless, 530, or more than 1 in 5 of the whole.

Motherless, 176, or more than 1 in 15 of the whole.

Orphans, 88, or more than 1 in 29 of the whole.

Partial returns from others give similar results.

The schools have an average of about twenty-nine pupils each. So that there are in every school, as an average, one orphan, two motherless, and five fatherless children. About one-third of all the youth at school, in these counties, by inference, are without one or both parents.

#### STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE EDUCATIONAL FUNDS.

##### *Common School Fund.*

Principal, - - - -	\$216,335.80
Increase from sales 16th sections land, - - -	5,561.44
“ “ fines collected, - - -	1,447.05
“ “ public lands forfeited, - - -	251.01
Total, - - - -	\$223,595.30

Interest on common school fund in Treasurer's hands, - - - - -	\$14,145.13
Interest due and collectable, about - - - - -	24,000.00
	<hr/>
Interest liable to disbursement to common schools,	\$38,145.13

## EXPENDITURES.

On account of schools for freedmen taught in 1868, - - - - -	\$5,486.85
Freight on books received, blank account books, and travelling expenses of Superintendent Public Instruction, - - - - -	302.16
	<hr/>
Total, - - - - -	\$5,789.01

*Seminary Fund.*

Principal, - - - - -	\$73,292.45
Increase from sales of seminary lands, - - - - -	641.34
	<hr/>
Total, - - - - -	\$73,933.79
Annual interest, equally divided between the two Seminaries, about - - - - -	\$6,000.00
Expenditures in favor East Florida Seminary, - - - - -	2,800.00
“ “ “ West Florida Seminary, - - - - -	5,073.72
Interest due and collectable, - - - - -	\$10,513.40
“ “ “ payable to East Florida Seminary, \$10,460.90	
West “ “ 52.50—\$10,513.40	
Appropriated by Legislature to common schools,	\$50,000.00

Whether this last item is to be used for the support of the schools, or to be placed to the credit of the principal, is not stated.

In order to present a clearer view of the work and its requirements, abstracts from reports that have been received—chiefly from county superintendents—are submitted as an appendix.

It should be remembered that but few of the schools have been in operation as long as three months; that the teachers are unused to making reports, and that time has not been afforded for obtaining full statistics. Hence, several counties do not stand as fair in the report as their work entitles them.

While these imperfect statements convey a general idea of what has been accomplished, they exhibit more forcibly what remains undone that should be done. They show that we need scores of competent teachers, hundreds of new and better furnish-



ed school-houses, besides thousands of text-books, and other aids to instruction. Our wants are those incident to any new organization where the work is large and the means small. But with the good sense and the great heart of the people with us, we shall find the ways and the means to sustain the work so auspiciously begun.

I cordially invite all friends of education to unite upon one common platform—schools for all. Let us plan wisely. Act together. Work like men.

Trusting in that Guiding Hand that has been with us hitherto, we shall go forward in the full confidence that all that ought to be done will be done.

C. THURSTON CHASE,  
Superintendent Public Instruction.

## APPENDIX.

### ALACHUA COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed May 18, 1869. Organized August 2, 1869. Wm. Edwards, Chairman; S. F. Halliday, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—The number of youth in this county between 4 and 21 years of age is 2,100. Through the well-directed efforts of the county superintendent twenty-two schools were put in operation early in October. There are in all twenty-eight teachers employed in this county.

The names of twelve hundred and sixteen children have been registered. It is worthy of note that of this number two hundred and six have no father, sixty-nine have no mother, thirty-eight have neither father nor mother; and about two hundred are reported as being too poor to buy their own text-books.

Of the twenty-eight teachers employed, fourteen have previously had experience in their profession; four have been members of Normal Schools; three have attended teachers' institutes. Total expenditure for the three months of school during 1869, is about \$3,850. Of this \$2,550 are set apart for teachers' salaries. No visits have been made to the schools by the Trustees; 15 by county superintendents; 18 by others.

*School-Houses.*—No school-houses have been built by the Board. Sites have been freely offered for the purpose.

Two buildings have been erected by the United States Government. One of them is a large, spacious, and well-furnished edifice. The construction of two more is contemplated.

About one half of the school-houses in use are comfortable

and convenient. An expenditure of \$150 on each of the others would put them in good order. Twelve have each a Bible, blackboard, and a chair and desk for teacher; ten have primary charts; two have outline maps; fifteen have each a broom; twenty each a water bucket and drinking cup; nine are comfortably seated for the pupils; and eighteen have a supply of good drinking water convenient.

It is estimated that there are still about six hundred youth, who are not attending school for want of suitable accommodations.

*Public Sentiment* in Alachua is beginning to appreciate the school system, and many of the people gladly avail themselves of its advantages. Although most of the buildings are private property, yet no rent is charged, except in such a way that the avails are appropriated to the payment of teachers.

Sixty dollars per month is contributed in the form of board for the teachers.

*Obstacles in the way of progress.*—"First, Apathy on the part of the patrons. It is true they manifest sufficient interest to send their children to school; but when repairs or furniture is needed, they are disposed to get along as they can rather than pay money.

Second, The want of suitable books. Most of the pupils have books of some kind, but not such as are suitable for their age or degree of advancement. Many of the patrons are satisfied if their children only have books, without at all considering their suitableness or adaptation to the age and capacity of the child. The schools hitherto have been transient. Different teachers have recommended different books. Some have taught only long enough to make a change in this respect. In my visits to the different schools under my supervision, I have been surprised at the great number of different readers, spellers, geographies, grammars, and arithmetics in the same school. The teachers could not classify their pupils to any advantage, nor properly economize their labor. We are removing this obstacle as fast as we can by supplying them with the regular series of text-books. When we shall have secured a uniformity in text-books it will make a new era in the way of advancement. Then one teacher will be able to accomplish as much as two with this confused state.

Third, The want of suitable school buildings is another serious obstacle. Several of our school-houses in this county are made of logs, and that in the coarsest and rudest manner. Some are destitute of fire-places or stoves. The pupils during the inclement weather being uncomfortable, of course cannot apply themselves closely to their studies.

Fourth, We have not a sufficient number of assistant

teachers. School No. 2, in Gainesville, now has 170 pupils with only two teachers. School No. 6 (Micanopy) now has 146 pupils with two teachers. School No. 4 (at Newnansville) has 90 pupils with only one teacher, and school No. 18 (High Woods) has 90 pupils and only one teacher. All of our schools have increased since the teachers made their reports."

The detailed account given of the affairs in this county applies with much force to others.

#### BAKER COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 24, 1869. Temporary Organization, August 23, 1869. T. J. Green, Chairman; ———, County Superintendent.

In this sparsely settled county it has been difficult to find competent men to take an active part in the duties of organizing schools, either as county superintendent or members of the board. The assessor reports a partial enumeration of the youth at 471, between the ages of 6 and 21 years. Several schools are needed, and will, it is hoped, be established within the next few months.

#### BRADFORD COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 28, 1869. Organized November 26, 1869. F. N. B. Oliver, Chairman; J. R. Richard, County Superintendent.

The number of youth is estimated at 1,400.

The work was commenced at a very late day in this county. As soon as the superintendent was appointed he went through the county and conferred with the people on the proposed establishment of free schools. On being apprised of the provisions of the law they accepted it cheerfully. They not only appear to give every assistance in their power, but also have taken a deep interest in the schools.

As the board was unable to complete its organization until after the tax was levied, the patrons of the schools sustain them at present. Fourteen have been started in this way. A tax for their support will be levied and collected without opposition.

The private schools already in operation have arranged to come in under the school system.

The progress made is largely due to the support and encouragement of the members of the Legislature from this county.

#### BREVARD COUNTY.

No recommendations have been received at this office in favor

of any persons for appointments on the board of instruction from this extensive but almost uninhabited district.

There are a few settlements along the river where schools are needed; but it is doubtful whether the provisions of the law will be made operative among them for some time to come.

#### CALHOUN COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed May 28, 1869. Temporary Organization, September 8, 1869. John Richards, Chairman; ———, County Superintendent.

#### CLAY COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 17, 1869. Organized October 1, 1869. Elijah Blitch, Chairman; Ozias Budington, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years, 508. There are 10 schools in operation, having each one teacher. Total attendance, 266; average attendance, 206. Of these 46 are reported as fatherless, 5 as motherless, 3 orphans; 52 are unable to pay for their text-books. The average salary paid to teachers, besides their board, is \$32.17. Seven of the teachers have taught school before. One educational magazine taken.

The schools are being continued three months, the term will probably be lengthened to five. Total expenditure, \$1,355. The sheriff has collected \$15 in fines.

*School Houses.*—The board of instruction owns two school houses, valued at \$2,410. The General Government has erected one. Eight are furnished gratuitously by citizens. No children are excluded from school for want of suitable accommodations.

Three of the school-houses have each a water bucket; two each a Bible, drinking cup, and teacher's desk; one a broom and blackboard; five have good seats and desks for the pupils. All have good water convenient. No apparatus of any kind is reported, but an appropriation of \$20 has been made for this purpose.

The sentiment, says the superintendent, of all who have taken the trouble to make themselves familiar with our system of common schools is favorable. We have but few wealthy people in the county and it is sparsely settled, yet the direct contributions made by citizens in aid of the 10 schools for the past three months amount to \$661.

The chief obstacles in the way of progress are the poverty and idleness of a portion of the citizens, who are too low down to appreciate blessings when laid at their doors. A goodly number of the best citizens are zealous in the cause of universal education, and it is believed that through united action, pa-



tience, and perseverance we shall, year by year, make substantial advancement.

The services of the venerable superintendent of this county seem to be worthily appreciated by the citizens. Although nearly seventy-five years of age he has given his personal attention to organizing the work, and has inspected the schools in the remotest sections of the county.

#### COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed March 2, 1869. Organized May 8, 1869. Samuel T. Day, Chairman; P. A. Holt, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Immediately after the organization of the board, the county superintendent made a tour of inspection, selecting localities for schools, addressing the people in the different settlements, and encouraging them to prepare school-houses for the Autumn.

An excellent spirit was manifested. But with many the pressing claims of their every day life left but little time to devote to other duties, and the school-buildings promised were not ready for occupancy when Autumn came.

The number of youth reported is 1,474, between 4 and 21 years of age.

There were 9 schools in operation on November 15th, with a prospect of opening 6 more. The tax of one mill on a dollar was insufficient for the educational needs of the county. The total number of pupils registered is 524, average attendance 460. 100 have no fathers, 67 are motherless, and 22 have neither parent; 75 are unable to purchase proper text-books. Five of the teachers have taught before. Two have attended a normal school.

*School-Houses.*—None are owned by the board. Six are supplied by citizens free of rent. One was erected by the General Government. Three are considered comfortable and convenient, the others are wanting school fixtures.

The superintendent remarks that the sentiment of the people toward the school system is very good. Ignorance and poverty are the chief obstacles in the way of progress.

#### DADE COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed July 21, 1869. Organized December 6, 1869. Octavius Aimar, Chairman; Wm. H. Benest, County Superintendent.

By the census returns there are only 27 youth between 4 and 21 years in this county. It was the wish of the principal property-holders that a tax of one per cent. should be levied to build



a school-house and employ a teacher for the children ; but no organization of the board could be had in time.

The few settlers in this county are determined to establish a good school for their children, and wish it understood that immigrants will have ample school privileges secured.

#### DUVAL COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed March 1, 1869. Organized November 24, 1869. Alonzo Huling, Chairman ; W. L. Coan, County Superintendent ; J. M. Daniel, acting County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—The number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age is reported at 2,418. The board consider this number too low.

The work was not commenced in this county until the collection of taxes had been well advanced. Then it was taken up in earnest. Judge Daniel, the acting County Superintendent, in a hasty and incomplete report received at a late hour, gives some of the leading points as follows: The total number of teachers now employed is 22. Three more schools are soon to be opened. The attendance is 742 pupils. Nearly all are able to buy their own text-books. Average salary of teachers is about \$40 per month. All have had some previous experience in teaching ; some are eminently well qualified. Schools will be continued until July.

A tax of one half of one per cent. was levied, amounting to about \$15,000, with which it was proposed to erect substantial school buildings in Jacksonville, and elsewhere. Two school-houses have been erected by the General Government. In concluding his report, Judge Daniel says the attendance is steadily increasing and public sentiment for the most part is all that could be desired.

#### ESCAMBIA COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed May 17, 1869. A. J. Pickard, County Superintendent.

Only one member of the first nominated board accepted the position. The county superintendent resigned and no organization was effected. A new board was appointed December 2. The new appointees have accepted and will make no delay in completing their organization.

The present county superintendent has been active in the discharge of his duties, and will speedily improve the condition of educational affairs in Escambia. Six schools have been conducted under his directions, with an attendance of 224 pupils. A

tax of one mill on the dollar has been levied and collected. There is yet a fund on hand for future work. The superintendent has taken the census of youth and reports the number between 4 and 21 years at 2,107.

Some small neighborhoods throughout the county are not yet provided with school facilities.

The people express themselves as favorable to public schools, and in the country, especially, manifest it by boarding the teachers, by furnishing school-rooms, and by subscribing money to defray school expenses.

The chief obstacle is the want of funds.

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 9, 1869. Organized September 9, 1869. Robert H. Goodlet, Chairman; F. M. Bryan, County Superintendent.

As there has been neither assessor nor collector of taxes in this county, the board has not been able to make the substantial progress which it could have done with a prospect of realizing funds to carry out their plans.

The school sustained in part by the Peabody Fund at Apalachicola is flourishing. Four other schools are assisted by the General Government.

A report from the teacher of the Peabody school gives the total attendance at 106. Of these 27 are fatherless, 8 motherless, and 4 are orphans. Twenty-five are unable to buy proper text-books. Many of the patrons of the school are poor, but anxious to have the school continued.

#### GADSDEN COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed July 17, 1869. Organized September 18, 1869. S. B. Love, Chairman; W. H. Crane, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—The number of youth in this county between 4 and 21 years of age is 3,475. There are 16 schools reported, having 17 teachers and 641 pupils. Average attendance, about 500. Of these 71 have no father, 44 no mother, and 12 are orphans. About 50 are not able to purchase their text-books. The estimated expense for schools during the first three months is \$2,000. Three-quarters of which have been appropriated for teachers' salaries. It is proposed to open thirty schools next year. Eleven teachers have taught school before; five have attended normal schools; none have been members of teachers' institutes. No educational magazine is taken. Salary per

month, 3d class, \$30; 2d class, \$45. Number of visits to schools by Trustees, 18; by county superintendent, 21. The schools in this county were opened about the first of October and have been in operation three months. They will be re-opened after the holidays.

*School-Houses.*—There are three in the county which have been erected by the General Government. Sixteen are supplied, free of rent, by private citizens. None are owned by the board. Only four are considered convenient and comfortable. Sixteen have each a well, a broom, and Bible; six each a water-bucket; eight a chair and drinking cup; three have blackboards; five have desks or tables for teachers. None have globes, outline maps, or primary charts.

With increased facilities twice as many children could be gathered into school. Some of the smaller schools will be discontinued and others opened in order to accommodate all.

The sentiment of the people is generally very favorable to the schools; but there is a lack of lively interest manifested by them. The rent of all the school-houses having been donated, and various amounts in board of teachers, &c., show that there exists a desire to co-operate with the board. Fines imposed amount to \$260; of this \$190 is in the sheriff's hands for collection. Bonds are held securing the payment of the remaining \$70.25.

The chief obstacles in the way of progress are those which exist in every uneducated community. Measures have been adopted to secure the assistance proposed from the Peabody Fund.

The school lands should be examined, re-appraised, and graduated on a lower valuation.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 24, 1869. Organized August 2, 1869. A. W. Knight, Chairman; ———, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of children between 4 and 21 years of age 1,373.

Owing to the resignation of the county superintendent, near the close of the year, the reports from this county are incomplete. It appears, however, that a tax of one-third of one per cent. was levied, from which a thousand dollars was realized.

Five schools were opened early in the autumn; as many more are needed. The difficulty of procuring competent teachers has retarded progress; but the chief obstacle is the want of funds. All the school-houses are supplied free of rent by private parties.

The sentiment of the people is good, and would grow more

favorable, provided there could be funds enough realized to maintain the schools as they should be.

It is recommended that the board of instruction be authorized to regulate the price of the school lands according to their value.

#### HERNANDO COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed July 24, 1869.

No census of the youth has been taken. All attempts to organize the board have failed.

#### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed March 13, 1869.

The appointees not having accepted, a new board was appointed on the 19th of November. From these, no acceptances have come to hand.

The assessor returns the number of youths between 4 and 21 years of age, at 895.

#### HOLMES COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed July 24, 1869.

No returns have been received showing the result of the census. It has been difficult to procure a competent and satisfactory board; but the prospect is improving, and good results may soon be gained.

#### JACKSON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed August 2, 1869. Organized September 4, 1869. John Pope, Chairman; Theophilus West, County Superintendent.

Owing to the unfortunate disturbances in this county the organization of the school work has been deferred. It is believed there is no general opposition to free schools. On the other hand, the board feel assured they will be sustained in carrying out the prudent and conciliatory course which they have determined to pursue.

One school-building will be erected by the General Government. The board hope to organize 20 schools before the close of the present scholastic year. An appropriation has been set apart from the Peabody Fund in favor of a school at Marianna.

The census of the youth was commenced but not finished.

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 26, 1869. Organized May 15, 1869. J. W. Johnson, Chairman; Robert Meacham, County Superintendent.

The report from this county was received late, and is necessarily incomplete.

*Schools.*—Number of children between 4 and 21 years of age, 2,640. Ten schools are, or soon will be in operation in this county. Reports have been received from the four that were first opened. They had a total attendance of 290 pupils. Average attendance, 170. Thirty-five of these were fatherless, 10 motherless, 6 orphans. All the teachers have had experience in their profession, and receive an average salary of \$45 per month. Visits by trustees 3, by superintendent 5, by others 20.

*School-Houses.*—Six acres of land have been offered as school sites, but no buildings have been erected by the board. The citizens supply two free of rent; one has been erected by the General Government. The supply of furniture and necessary apparatus is very limited.

Fines to the amount of \$75 have been collected by the sheriff, and paid to the State Treasurer.

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed February 5, 1869. Organized August 2, 1869. R. B. Hill, Chairman; Henry R. Holmes, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 777.

Soon after the organization of the board four schools were opened. A tax of one-fifth of one per cent. was levied and collected. Owing to obstacles beyond the control of the board nothing further has been done. These obstacles will soon be removed, and the work will go on satisfactorily in future.

#### LEON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed February 25, 1869. Organized April 16, 1869. C. H. Edwards, Chairman; Chas. H. Pearce, County Superintendent.

No report has been handed in by the superintendent of this county. The chairman of the board, who has devoted much time to the work, with rare good judgment, furnishes the following information:

A tax of one-fourth of one per cent realized about \$8,000. It is proposed to expend in teachers' salaries \$6,000; on buildings \$1,500, on libraries, apparatus, &c., \$500.

Eighteen teachers at an average monthly salary of \$42.22. Total members of pupils reported, 689. Proposed duration of school session, five months.

*School-Houses.*—Thirteen are furnished by citizens free of



rent. Two have been erected by the General Government, in which there are rooms for five teachers, besides two recitation rooms.

About the best comment that can be made on the sentiment of the people in regard to free schools is, that the citizens, with great unanimity, seem anxious to have schools established near them, and promise liberal contributions. The owners of large estates offer land, lumber, and labor for school-houses. They have paid their school taxes promptly, and now seem desirous of having good schools for their own children and others. Since the first of December nine neighborhoods have made direct application to the chairman, and voluntarily organized under the law and secured the establishment of schools.

Amount of fines paid to the State Treasurer, \$199.

Number of youth between 4 and 21 years, 6,120.

#### LEVY COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 7, 1869. Organized June 8, 1869. Wm. A. Shands, Chairman; George S. Leavitt, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 650. There are twelve schools, employing 14 teachers. Total attendance about 400, one-third of whom are not able to purchase text-books. Length of session of schools, four months. Visits by superintendent, 12.

*School-Houses.*—None are owned by the board, nor have any been erected by the General Government; all have been supplied by private citizens. None are considered entirely comfortable and convenient, although they have served the purpose reasonably well. Six have each a water-bucket, drinking-cup, and chair; two report each a Bible and blackboard; ten have dictionaries. All have water convenient. No primary charts or needed appliances for general instruction are reported.

School lands are held at too high rate for sale at present time.

Soon after the organization of this county board, the superintendent commenced the establishment of schools. A hostile spirit manifested itself at first, and became more virulent with the collection of taxes for the support of schools; but as the schools have progressed the opposers have had an opportunity of judging by results, and have been so favorably impressed that their prejudices, yielding to their better judgments, are fast dying out. The school-houses and all improvements upon them have been furnished by the citizens gratuitously. They have also boarded the teachers without charge.

Some of the settlements in this, as in many other counties, are remote from any public thoroughfare, and are in great want of facilities for general information. To them the teachers, the schools, and the school libraries will become valuable aids in the training of their youth.

#### LIBERTY COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed June 10, 1869. A temporary organization has been entered into, and a selection of a County Superintendent made.

Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 424.

Measures are in progress for the speedy organization of this board.

#### MADISON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed March 13, 1869. Organized April 21; Simon Katzenberg, Chairman; Dennis Eagan, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—There are six schools in operation. Nine more are needed, and will soon be opened. Total number of pupils registered, 350; average attendance, 300. Of these, 75 are fatherless. One hundred and fifty are unable to buy the proper textbooks. Total number of youth between 4 and 21 years, 5,000 (estimated.) The schools will be continued about seven months.

Six teachers are employed at an average salary of \$30 per month. All the schools organized are in a flourishing condition. Visits by Trustees, four; by County Superintendent, four.

Estimated expenditures for the scholastic year are as follows: Construction, rental, and repairs of school-houses, \$5,000; teachers' salaries, \$3,000; furniture, apparatus, libraries, &c., \$600.

*School-Houses.*—Three school-houses belong to the board of instruction, valued at \$2,000. The United States Government has provided one. Citizens furnish one gratuitously. Rent paid by the board, \$50. Four are in the main comfortably and conveniently seated for the pupils. Two have tables for the teachers; one has charts, blackboard, &c.

*Public sentiment* is generally in favor of the system of popular instruction. Citizens have contributed in land, lumber, labor, &c., to the estimated amount of \$200.

The contribution of this county to the school-fund in fines amounts to \$169.

Arrangements have been made for securing the proffered benefits of the Peabody Fund in favor of Madison.

#### MARION COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed March 1, 1869. Organ-

ized October 6, 1869. J. H. Goss, Chairman; H. E. Russell, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 2,197.

A variety of causes prevented early action of the board. A tax of one-fourth of one per cent. was levied and collected. It is intended to establish 21 schools and to continue them from 4 to 5 months. Since it is so difficult to obtain the services of good teachers, it is proposed to employ six or seven first-class teachers, and by transferring them to the different schools give them continuous employment during the entire year.

There was at first some opposition manifested by a few; but the mass of the people are in favor of free schools. The objection to educating those who were recently in bondage is yielding to better counsels, which shows that the general prosperity is promoted by the education of all classes.

None of the board receives compensation for services rendered. It is hoped that by a course of prudence, economy, and good management all obstacles will soon be overcome.

#### MANATEE COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed February 4, 1869. Organized September 6, 1869. Wm. F. Turner, Chairman; John F. Bartholf, County Superintendent.

Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 328.

Soon after the organization of the board two schools were opened through the influence of Asbury Sellers, Esq., one of the members. One school has 16 pupils, the other 25. They are situated 18 miles apart.

The county superintendent states that at a recent meeting of the board arrangements were made for opening and maintaining 6 schools during the present year. The two that have been in operation during the past three months were sustained by the patrons, at an expense of about \$250.

"We labor under great disadvantages here in establishing schools, and the most serious is that the people are so widely scattered over a great extent of territory, making it impossible, without heavy expense, to establish a sufficient number of schools to accommodate all, and many of the people are too poor to board their children in the vicinity of the schools. But we are laboring earnestly, steadily, and faithfully in this good cause. We are encouraged by the general disposition which the people begin to manifest in favor of the system of popular education, by their willingness to render all the assistance in their power. We have the satisfaction of knowing that we are working in the

best cause to which a man can devote his time; particularly true does this seem here, where among some portions of the people so much ignorance and degradation prevail."

#### MONROE COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed May 26, 1869.

There has been no county superintendent in this county and no organization of the board. No returns of the census have been received.

#### NASSAU COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 7, 1869. Organized April 24, 1869. N. Brownson, Chairman; J. C. Emerson, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—The census of youth by mistake included only those between 5 and 18 years of age. Their number is returned at 916. There are seven schools in operation. It is proposed to open eight more; all to be continued three months, beside such extension of time as the State aid will warrant. The total enrollment of pupils is about 400, and the average attendance 300.

Total expenditure \$2,800. Of this, \$900 are devoted to teachers' salaries, and \$1,400 to construction.

Seven teachers are employed at an average salary of \$40 per month. Four of these have taught previous to their present term of service.

The county superintendent has visited each school once.

*School-Houses.*—The board of instruction has erected one school-house, valued at \$400. One was erected by the General Government. Three are furnished by the citizens free of rent. The board has paid for rent \$25.

Two are considered comfortable and convenient; the others need furniture, blackboards, and most of the appliances usually employed as aids to instruction.

With the establishment of schools the communities come to recognize the value of popular education. But few difficulties have arisen, and these have been gradually overcome.

#### ORANGE COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 7, 1869. Organized December 11, 1869. Wm. C. Roper, Chairman; W. A. Lovell, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—A permanent organization of the board could not be effected until after the levy of taxes had been made. But many of the citizens were so desirous of securing the benefits of the system for their children, that they started 8 schools in the

different settlements throughout the county, sustaining them at their own expense, and placed them under the control of the board of instruction.

Many of the settlers in this county have recently immigrated from adjoining Southern States. They are represented by their Senator as being unanimous in favor of the system of public instruction.

Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age is 385.

#### POLK COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed May 26, 1869.

The census returns of the youth give the number of 755 between the ages of 4 and 21 years.

By information received from private sources it appears that more has been done in this county than has been officially reported. A school tax of over six hundred dollars has been paid.

#### PUTNAM COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 7, 1869. Organized July 3, 1869. G. W. Pratt, Chairman; W. C. Snow, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—From some cause the educational affairs of this county have been allowed to lapse until it was too late to levy a tax in their behalf. Measures may yet be instituted by which a portion of the 1,048 children reported as residing in the county, may obtain a share of instruction in public schools.

One good school-house has been erected by the General Government in this county.

#### SANTA ROSA COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed July 23, 1869.

No census of the youth was taken. No movements looking toward an organization of the schools of the county reported.

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed Feb. 25, 1869. Organized April 30, 1869. N. D. Benedict, Chairman; O. Bronson, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 910. There are four schools in operation, employing three teachers; three new ones are preparing to commence. Two hundred and twenty-nine pupils are registered; average attendance, 204. Of one hundred pupils 19 have no father, 9 have no mother, and 4 are orphans. About one-third of the whole



are represented as being unable to purchase the needed textbooks.

Each of the teachers has taught previously. One is a graduate of the New York State Normal School, and has been a very successful teacher in that State for ten years.

Visits by school trustees, 37; by county superintendent, 20; by others, 85.

*School-Houses.*—One good school-house has been erected by the General Government. Another in use, probably the oldest in the State, was built by funds left for the purpose many years ago by a benevolent gentleman. This has been recently refitted and newly furnished. Each house is well supplied with blackboards, charts, and other useful and convenient articles.

One school receives \$1,000 from the Peabody Fund. Although recently organized, the patrons and friends of this school are highly pleased with the progress thus far attained. It is indeed a model school, and is steadily increasing in numbers. Another school is liberally aided by the American Missionary Association of New York.

Both these schools are the centres of much interest and are visited by large numbers of guests from abroad.

The county superintendent and the board have been zealous in their endeavors for the establishment of schools of high grade in St. Augustine, under such auspices as would insure the co-operation of all the citizens. Their labors have been gratuitously performed and have been crowned with success, which is the highest reward.

#### SUMTER COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed June 11, 1869. An informal organization. John B. Tillman, Chairman.

For the want of a county superintendent this board has not been able to perfect its organization. No official action has therefore been taken in regard to schools, although several have been started, with the expectation that they will be received under the board when that body is ready to proceed. They are sustained entirely at the expense of private individuals.

#### SUWANNEE COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 7, 1869. Organized July 9, 1869. J. F. White, Chairman; J. J. Taylor, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—There are 878 youths between 4 and 21 years of age. Two schools are in operation, with an average attendance of 30 pupils each. Two teachers are employed; average salary

\$30 per month. Four more schools are to be opened and continued three months each. Total estimated expenditure, \$900; two-thirds of which is for teachers' salaries. At the next meeting of the board measures will be adopted to secure uniformity in text-books. Visits by Trustees, 1; by County Superintendent, 1.

*School-Houses.*—The citizens furnish one building rent free. The General Government has assisted in the construction of two, and is erecting one more. In each of these, schools will be opened. The supply of school-furniture, &c., is meagre.

*Public sentiment* is generally favorable to the system of popular education. Time and perseverance alone are required for all reasonable furtherance of the work.

#### TAYLOR COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 7, 1869. Organized June 26, 1869. W. C. Carlton, Chairman: James H. Wentworth, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years is 540. There are 8 schools in operation, with 230 pupils in attendance. Total average attendance, 191. Eighty-three have no father; 10 are orphans; not half are able to buy the proper text-books.

Eight teachers are employed, with an average salary of \$25.37 per month, besides contributions from citizens.

Seven other schools are to be started. Each is to be continued three months.

Of the \$500 being raised, \$300 are to be expended on teachers' salaries.

Visits by Trustees, 14; by county superintendent, 10.

*School-Houses.*—The 8 in use are provided by the citizens free of rent. Each has a broom, a drinking-cup, and well of good water. Four have water-buckets; three have chairs and tables for the teachers; one is well seated. None have any apparatus or black-boards. All are without outhouses. Very considerable repairs are needed.

*Public sentiment* is indicated by the citizens furnishing all the school-houses gratuitously, and contributing in various ways to the amount of \$300 to sustain the schools. There are a few who would like to make belligerent manifestations, but their opposition is gradually weakening, and would soon disappear if we could afford free school facilities for all, which we hope to be able to do next year.

The chief obstacle in the way of progress is want of means.

None of the teachers take any educational magazine, from the fact that the county has no mail facilities, there being only

one post-office in the county, and some of the schools are 30 miles from that.

This is a "range" county. Much of the school land in it is not valuable. Squatters and trespassers occupy portions of it, who could be induced to buy if the management was placed in the hands of the county board. It should be sold low, so as the sooner to be brought under cultivation and be in the way to pay taxes for the support of schools.

#### VOLUSIA COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 24, 1869. Partial Organization September 4, 1869. J. C. Maley, Chairman; Wm. F. Buckner, County Superintendent.

Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 421. A light tax was imposed, from which it was expected to realize \$500, a sum inadequate to the wants of the county.

There are school-houses in ten settlements. Most of these are built of logs.

One school was opened early in the Autumn, with an attendance of 29 pupils.

The General Government, about two years since, supplied the materials for a school-house, and the neighbors united in putting it up. After it was erected one of them took down the building and moved it away.

#### WAKULLA COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed March 13, 1869. Organized August 14, 1869. Silas D. Allen, Chairman; D. W. Core, County Superintendent.

*Schools.*—Number of youth between 4 and 21 years of age, 788. Five schools have been organized and five teachers employed. Total attendance, 125; average, 83. The schools have been in operation three months. It is proposed to open two more. Nine children in attendance are reported as having no father, four are motherless, and three are orphans. Sixty-six are reported unable to purchase text-books. All the teachers have had some experience in their profession.

The superintendent has made one visit of inspection to each school.

*School-Houses.*—These are all furnished by private citizens free of rent. They are reasonably well supplied with requisite utensils; but are deficient in apparatus and school furniture.

Estimated expenditures for the year, \$1,000; of which \$735 are devoted to teachers' salaries, \$150 to repairs, &c., \$75 to furniture and apparatus.

The sentiment of the people is in favor of free schools. Gen-

erally, when one class needs help they receive it from others. Citizens have contributed according to their means. Our chief obstacle in the way of progress is a want of money.

Educational addresses would be listened to with interest and tend to stimulate the people.

Fifty dollars have been collected by the Sheriff for fines and paid into the State Treasury.

#### WALTON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed July 12, 1869. Organized September 4, 1869. Sam'l Rutan, Chairman; ———, County Superintendent.

Fourteen schools have been in operation; but the recent death of the county superintendent, John Gillis, has produced a deep sensation among the friends of education. He was an upright, capable, and efficient officer. By his judicious and manly course, he secured the confidence of all parties. Owing to his sad demise the returns from this county are imperfect.

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Board of Public Instruction appointed April 9, 1869. Organized July 28, 1869. John F. White, Chairman; J. L. Russ, County Superintendent.

Seventeen locations were selected, at each of which was a building suitable for a school-house. The people manifest much interest at the prospective opening of schools; but not much substantial progress has been made.